to go ahead with the tendering process for appointment of IPO Advisors. However, the actual appointment will be done only after an 'in principle' approval of the Government is given.

(c) to (f) At the present stage, it is premature to identify the exact route that would be followed.

New navigation system

2209. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are developing a satellite-based navigation system which will help to enhance air safety while allowing more aircrafts to operate in the Indian skies simultaneously;

(b) whether any cooperation is sought from ISRO in preparing the navigation system;

(c) by when, Government are expecting prototype in this system for its demonstration; and

(d) to what extent this would help the flight safely and enhance navigation capability in the Indian airspace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Geo-positioning System and Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is being implemented jointly by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and ISRO.

(c) Technological Demonstration phase of GAGAN project is likely to be ready by June, 2006.

(d) GAGAN will provide seamless navigation over Indian airspace and in oceanic region as well, and precision approaches at all Indian airports.

Shortage of pilots

2210. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines and Air India pilots are quitting for lucrative offers from burgeoning private airline industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Government pilots joined with private airlines till June, 2005; and

(d) whether the civil aviation sector is suffering from acute shortage of pilots, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Some pilots in Public Sector Airlines have sought resignation/voluntary retirement, citing personal reasons, during the current year.

(c) The airlines do not have definite information about the number of their pilots who have joined other airlines.

(d) As a result of significant growth in aviation, there is a sudden spurt in the demand for pilots. According to available information, at present, Air India (including Air India express) has a shortage of 118 pilots where as Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Indian Airlines has a shortage of 40 pilots.

Revenue from ground handling services

2211. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of income month-wise the Indian Airlines is getting after offering its ground handling services to international carriers and domestic private airlines such as Air Deccan, Kingfisher, Spicejet etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) Indian Airlines Limited has been earning Rs. 19.00 crores (approximately) per month from ground handling services.

Conversion of aircrafts as cargo carriers

†2212. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines propose to use some of its aircrafts as cargo carriers;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.